

## **15-90 Corridor Interoperable Communications Consortium Project**

Meeting: Thursday, May 5, 2005

Time: 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM

Place: Butte – Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce Building

9:30 AM Call to Order: Jim Minor, Project Director  
Introductions  
Approval of Minutes (March 15, 2005)

### **Project Director Report**

Invoices & Payments to FE (9 @ \$17,710 = \$159,390, 1 @ \$293.16)  
Invoice for Lee's Office City, Wilma (\$220.94)  
Hours Billed to Granite County for 15-90 Project  
Submission of Work Logs into Record  
Invoice Processed for Butte – Silver Bow  
SIEC Presentation on June 2, 2005  
Distribution of Site Survey CDs  
Schedule Town Meetings

10:00 AM FE Presentation: Neil Horden  
  
Final Needs Assessment Report – Deliverable Due 04-11-05  
Review System Recommendations Outline – Deliverable Due 04-11-05  
Deliver Final Report Outline – Deliverable Due 04-13-05  
Overview of Coverage & Site Selection  
Overview of System Alternatives – Deliverable Due 04-13-05  
Open Discussion and Q&A

### **Final Report & Issues**

Beaverhead County – Letter of 04-15-05 from Larry & Bob  
Granite County – Questions to be Answered 04-13-05 by Jim

### **Future Direction**

Discussion of Wilma's Memo of 04-12-05  
Make Decision(s)

### **Other Discussion**

3:30 PM Date for Next Meeting  
Adjourn

The meeting of the 15-90 Corridor Interoperable Communication Governing Board was called to order by Jim Minor, Project Director, at 10 A.M. on Tuesday, March 15, 2005 in the conference room of the Butte Chamber of Commerce.

Note: the Governing Board is composed of those individuals so designated as the primary and alternate representative by the County Commissioners through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Military Affairs, Disaster and Emergency Services.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **Governing Board**

Wilma Puich	Primary Representative, Butte-Silver Bow
Sheriff John Walsh	Alternate Representative, Butte-Silver Bow
Larry Laknar	Primary Representative, Beaverhead
Bob McWilliams	Alternate Representative, Beaverhead
Buzz Peterson	Primary Representative, Anaconda-Deer Lodge
Bill Converse	Alternate Representative, Anaconda-Deer Lodge
Jim Minor	Primary Representative, Granite

### **Excused**

Steve Immenschuh	Alternate Representative, Granite
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### **Participating Agencies**

Gary Hindoiem	Consortium Administrator State of Montana, DES Homeland Security Division
Martha Smith	District #1 State Representative State of Montana DES
Ron Warren	Project Oversight Manager Special Projects Coordinator State of Montana, Public Safety Services Bureau

### **Federal Engineering**

Neil Horden	15-90 Corridor IC Program Manager Senior Consultant
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### **Guests**

Mark Adams	Program Manager Northrop Grumman
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## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Buzz Peterson made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2005 meeting as written and distributed. Motion seconded by John Walsh. Motion carried.

## **PROJECT DIRECTOR ITEMS**

**CDP Approval Letter.** Minor stated that the 15-90 Corridor Concept Demonstration Project has been approved and written confirmation is on file in the 15-90 Consortium records. A copy of the letter of approval was distributed to each member of the Governing Board.

**Missoula IC Project.** Minor gave Neil Horden a copy of the Missoula County IC Project to review.

**FE Billing.** Submission of invoices from FE is current with seven invoices submitted to the Montana Homeland Security Office for payment. Outstanding bills include copy work done in the Butte Silver Bow Office for the Needs Assessment project and about \$500 in copy work prepared for this meeting.

**By-Laws.** The Consortium By-Laws were emailed to all members of the consortium for review. The By-laws were drafted and conform with the Memorandum of Understanding. Puich made a motion to adopt the By-laws as written and distributed. Motion seconded by Larry Laknar. Motion carried.

**Rumor Control.** Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman was invited to attend the meeting to answer to the rumor that circulated early last month about the 15-90 Consortium Project. Discussion ensued. Minor requested that before spreading information that is damaging to our project, to please check with him to clarify such information to help prevent future rumors. Mark Adams then excused himself to return to Helena.

**Public Availability of Project Documents.** Documents about the project are available on the web. If anyone requests information direct them to [www.discoveringmontana.com/itsd/policy/SIEC/cdprojects/15-90/15-90.asp](http://www.discoveringmontana.com/itsd/policy/SIEC/cdprojects/15-90/15-90.asp).

**Project Director Hours.** Minor said that since November 4, 2004 thru today he has logged 250 project hours. This represents a \$4000.00 contribution by Granite County to the project.

**FEDERAL ENGINEERING (FE)**

Neil Horden, FE Senior Consultant, made the presentation. Three documents prepared by FE were distributed, presented and discussed.

**Document 1. *15-90 Interoperable Communications Consortium Public Safety Mobile Radio Communications Needs Assessment – Draft***

Neil indicated that this document is a working document with the final document to be published next. The results indicate much consistency. The most common concern – about 80% - is coverage, followed at 49% with the need for equipment. The reported issues by county start on page 22.

The presentation and discussion, for all the counties combined and by each county, followed for each section of the document. Conclusions can be found on pages 33 and 34. High on the list from all counties was improved maintenance for service and response time. The four counties entering into one contract with a vendor for service was offered for discussion.

Serious issues with frequency assignments are a nationwide problem that can impact all consortiums. Ron Warren indicated that the Public Safety Service Bureau is working on it.

An analysis of the perceived future needs (page 31) indicate that they match the current needs with few exceptions. This is probably because current needs, such as the lack of coverage and equipment, have been unmet for such a long period of time. As such, most users will focus on current needs as future needs.

Martha Smith discussed the need for training. The need for training is exemplified, for example, by Beaverhead County that installed a new repeater system two years ago. Some users still do not know how to use it. The use of P-25 radios is also a training issue. All agreed that future grant applications request funds for training; and that the training component needs to be put in place in a comprehensive county-based Interoperable Communications Plan. All present agreed that FE must address training in the implementation strategy document.

**Document 2. *15-90 Interoperable Communications Consortium Public Safety Mobile Radio Communications Needs Assessment – Appendices***

The document contains the following information categorized for all four counties combined and for each county. The information is

1. Interoperable Communications Survey Appendix A;
2. Survey data issues summary data in 15-90 ICC Needs Assessment Appendix B;

3. Interoperability matrix in 15-90 ICC Needs Assessment Appendix C; and
4. Un-Met, Well-Met and Future Needs Summary in 15-90 ICC Needs Assessment Appendix D.

Neil explained that the work of FE now becomes “our” work. He asked us to review the documents. If any discrepancies, additions or changes need to be made, please let Jim know so Neil can be informed and the changes be made.

**Document 3. *15-90 Interoperable Communications Consortium Public Safety Mobile Radio Primary Coverage Analysis***

A copy of the preliminary coverage analysis was distributed for discussion. An electronic copy will be available in the next couple of days and emailed to each member of the Governing Board. Neil asked each member to review the coverage maps (13 sites) for their respective county to ensure that each computer generated coverage analysis is correct. Please return changes to Jim by April 6, 2005 so that changes can be made prior to generating the final coverage maps. Future coverage maps will be included for expected new sites. The coverage maps have a 95% reliability factor assuming a 45 watt mobile radio.

Most sites were inaccessible for on-site inspection because of snow. An actual survey at the C-Hill site was completed. Most sites appear to be not well managed. Proper grounding needs to be addressed and is important. Eventually every site should be evaluated. Inspections of the various 9-1-1 centers found problems such as no fire alarms in the centers, radio closets serving as storage areas around the electronic equipment and heat detectors not found in the sites. For one fire department site, proper grounding of the equipment being installed was not completed.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Newsletter.** The newsletter is a periodic publication. When news is available it will be published in the newsletter. One suggestion was for next newsletter to include a definition of terms for Interoperable Communications. Puich suggested that Minor check with Jenny Hansen for this information.

**Extension of FE Schedule.** FE requested that the SOW be extended by two weeks to end on June 3, 2005. Puich indicated that her concern with extending the completion date was twofold. First, the implementation plan from FE is required by Butte Silver Bow to complete projects approved in the FY04 ODP grant application. Second, she asked Gary Hindoien when the FY05 grant application and competitive grant application will be available. Gary said about the end of May. Puich stated that it is imperative to have the completed FE Implementation Plan to use in the development of the grant applications especially if the Homeland Security Division is going

to place importance on using this grant funding on approved ODP/CDP projects. All present agreed to extend the FE completion date from May 18, 2005 to June 3, 2005. Jim will update the FE Project Schedule to reflect this change.

**Town Meetings.** Town Meetings will be scheduled after FE completes the Final Report.

**System Alternatives.** Horden led a discussion on system alternatives from questions asked by the Governing Board. Neil stated that needs may be met in different ways and that interoperability is not a yes or no answer. The Northern Tier and Lewis & Clark projects have some trunking capability. Trunking is an option to be considered if dictated by the amount of communications traffic on the system. Different vendors are working on P-25 radios but may not have the capability to work with the infrastructure from other vendors. If a county is installing Motorola equipped sites we need to insure that P-25 radios purchased will work on the

system. US Forest Service radios being purchased are leaning to P-25. Ask Bendix King and Relm what their future trunking plans are. Most radios do have the analog/digital capability but not trunking capability. Other alternatives include microwave vs. fiber optic and county shared sites through the consortium.

The mobile data consortium is another area that needs to be addressed. In Butte Silver Bow two dishes will be put on the new Red Mountain repeater site for this project. The Jefferson, Broadwater and Powell Consortium Project will also be heavily involved in this project. Funding to assist some of this project is coming from the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial funding. It is really imperative to have open discussions with adjacent counties on this topic.

**Memorandum concerning Phase II and III of the 15-90 Project.** Jim distributed a memo for consideration, and discussion at a later point in time. The memo addresses the following questions.

- What work needs to be completed after Phase I is done?
- Do we continue as a consortium?
- What do we do first in Phase II Procurement?
- Where will we get the money to proceed?

The next steps in the process will be to:

- Investigate funding options
- Investigate partnerships
- Preparation of grant applications
- Preparation for grant procurement
- Preparation for Implementation

**NEXT MEETING**

Minor and Horden indicated that it may be necessary to have a conference call between meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2005 at 9:00 A.M. at the Butte Silver Bow Chamber of Commerce.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Wilma Puich, Consortium Secretary

**Addendum to Minutes of March 15, 2005**

**From:** Adams, Mark E (Mission Systems) [Mark.E.Adams@ngc.com]

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 04, 2005 12:58 PM

**To:** James Minor; Bob McWilliams; Buzz Peterson (E-mail); Gary Hindoien; Jennifer Kerns; Jenny Hansen; John E. Murray; John Sullivan; John Walsh; Larry Laknar; Martha Smith; Mike Meyer; Neil J. Horden; Racene Friede; Ron Bosco; Ron Warren; Sheri Lanz; Steve Immenschuh; William Converse; Wilma Puich

**Cc:** John E. Murray; Neil J. Horden

**Subject:** RE: 15-90 Please Review for Meeting 05-05-05

Jim,

I received your invitation to the 15-90 meeting, and copies of your documents. Thank you for sending those to me. I'm interested in how your project is moving forward and the directions you're taking.

I do want to clarify a point from the minutes of the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, on the section regarding Rumor Control. Please let me re-iterate that my involvement on this topic was strictly limited to the receipt of feedback regarding the 15-90 project and accurately passing that information on to the PSSB representative assigned to your project in order to enable him to better assist and advise the consortium. This was an action that I feel was both timely and appropriate. However, I agreed to notify you of any future feedback I receive on the project for you to address as you deem appropriate.

I hope this provides better clarification on what took place, and what my purpose was for attending your March meeting. Thank you again for including me on your distribution list. I wish you well on your project, and if there's anything I can do to be of assistance at any time, please don't hesitate to ask.

Thanks!

Mark E. Adams  
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